

delivery of veterans' health care services, grants to state veterans homes, and funding for the VA's Office of Inspector General. In fact, this bill represents a \$6.2 billion reduction in funding for the VA compared to the bipartisan MilCon/VA appropriations bill passed overwhelmingly earlier this year.

So H.J. Res. 72 is not a vote to fund our veterans; it is a vote to cut veterans funding. In addition, it would leave their children and grandchildren behind without funding for programs like Head Start or medical research to cure the diseases that harm our veterans and every other citizen. Taken together, these two bills fail to equip and train our troops or build housing for their families.

The fact is that we do have a way to solve this issue today. If we take up the Senate's clean continuing resolution, we can send it to the President for his signature tonight. The clean CR also provides \$6 billion more in funding for the VA and veteran's programs compared to the piecemeal bill offered today. That is why I call on my colleagues to bring up the clean CR so we can end this shut down and pave the way for full and immediate funding for our National Guard, our military reserves, and our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE P. GALLEGO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 527 on the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I am not recorded because I was absent due to attendance at the funeral of Deputy Sheriff Billy "Bubba" Kennedy from Upton County who was killed in the line of duty after 14 years as a committed peace officer. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 528 on H.J. Res. 77, the Food and Drug Safety Act, I am not recorded because I was absent due to attendance at the funeral of Deputy Sheriff Billy "Bubba" Kennedy from Upton County who was killed in the line of duty after 14 years as a committed peace officer. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, as hundreds of thousands of our federal workers face furloughs and a third year of pay freezes, I introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. The bill would overturn a recent, unprecedented federal court decision, *Kaplan v. Conyers and MSPB*, that strips many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from a job on grounds of ineligibility.

The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found to no longer be eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal workers who are designated as "noncritical sensitive" from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision would affect at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated as noncritical sensitive. Even more seriously, most federal employees could potentially lose the same right to an independent review of an agency's decision because of a pending rule by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) that would permit agency heads to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive.

The Kaplan decision undercuts Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers required by the United States Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right of review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head and, in addition, makes a mockery of whistleblower protections enacted in the 112th Congress. My bill would stop the use of "national security" to repeal a vital component of civil service protection and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING AUGUST 2013 AS THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST KOREAN IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN AMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with Korean-American immigrants in my district and through the nation in celebrating August as the 110th anniversary of the first Korean immigrants arriving here in the United States. The Institute for Corean-American Studies (ICAS) is hosting its summer symposium on this very topic: The Korean Diaspora: Challenges facing the Korean-American Community.

The first Korean immigrants—102 men, women, and children—arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1903 to work as laborers on sugar plantations. Since then, Korean Americans have settled across America, which is now home to the second largest Korean population outside of Korea itself. More than 80,000 Korean-Americans live in the National Capital Region, making this the third largest Korean community in the United States. In the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, which I represent, is home to a thriving Korean-American community. Asian-Americans comprise the largest ethnic group in our District, which is

more than 40% minority and in which more than 1-in-4 is foreign born.

Earlier this spring, I was pleased to join my colleagues in welcoming President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea, who addressed a joint session of Congress. She spoke eloquently about her long-term hope for restoring trust across the Korean peninsula and fostering a shared sense of economic vitality across Asia. As a co-chair of the Congressional Korea Caucus, I and my colleagues are committed to preserving and further growing the strong relationship we have enjoyed with South Korea for the past 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the countless contributions of Korean-Americans and in commemorating the 110th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants here in America. I wish ICAS success with its upcoming symposium.

KEVIN O'DONNELL, CAN DO, INC.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin O'Donnell for 40 years of service with CAN DO, Inc. in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Mr. O'Donnell joined CAN DO in 1973 as assistant director. CAN DO, Inc. is a private, non-profit industrial/economic development corporation serving Greater Hazleton in Northeastern, Pennsylvania. Mr. O'Donnell quickly rose through the ranks of this organization, becoming a project manager for the area's first synthetic fuels plant in 1974 and in 1984, becoming director of the organization. In 1995, that title changed to president, the position he has held since that day. Under Mr. O'Donnell's leadership, CAN DO received the Arthur D. Little Environmental Excellence in Economic Development Award in 1993, the U.S. Green Building Council's Energy and Environmental Design Award in 2006, and the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association's "Large Agency of the Year" title in 2007.

A native of Greater Hazleton, Mr. O'Donnell's success extends beyond his work with CAN DO. In 1984, he was selected by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) as the first-ever "Developer of the Year." In 2006, he was awarded the Ben Franklin Innovation Award "Special Achievement" for his contribution to the creation of the Great Valley Technology Alliance (GVTA). In 2009, Mr. O'Donnell was inducted into Northeast Pennsylvania's Business Hall of Fame for his numerous achievements and contributions to Greater Hazleton and Northeast Pennsylvania. Locally, he has received numerous awards for his work as a former officer and member of several educational institutions and community and civic groups.

Mr. Speaker, for 40 years Kevin O'Donnell has served as an integral member of CAN DO, Inc., bringing thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars to the Greater Hazleton economy. Therefore, I commend him for his service to the economic development of Pennsylvania's 11th District.